

JULY 2013

KING COUNTY

CHANNARY HOR v. CITY OF SEATTLE AND OMAR TAMMAM

Number: 10-2-34403-9SEA

Trial Date: 6/3/13 (16-day trial)

Plff Atty: Ben Barcus, Paul Lindenmuth & Colleen Durkin, Ben Barcus & Associates (Tacoma)

Def. Atty: Rebecca Boatright, City Attorney's Office; Robert Christie, Christie Law Group (both Seattle)

Plff Med.: Craig Lichtblau MD (Physiatrist) Palm Beach FL

Def. Med.: Andrew Saxon MD (Pharmacologist) Seattle WA

Plff Exp.: D.P. Van Blaricom (Police Practices) Bellevue; Steven Stockinger (Accident Reconstructionist) Tacoma; William Brandt (Economist) Seattle

Def. Exp.: Nathan Rose (Accident Reconstructionist); William Neale (Accident Reconstructionist/Forensic Visualization), both Greenwood Village CO; William Partin (Economist) Bellevue; Jeffrey Noble (Police Practices) Irvine CA

Trial Judge: Hon. Jeffrey Ramsdell

CITY NEGLIGENCE (NEGLIGENT PURSUIT)

FRACTURED NECK; QUADRIPLEGIA

5/18/06 - Plff, female age 16, high school drop-out. Plff was a passenger in a vehicle with Def. Tammam that was parked in the Seward Park lot after it had closed. When officers approached the vehicle, Def. Tammam put the vehicle in reverse and sped away. Def. Tammam then crashed into a rock wall and fled on foot, leaving Plff, who was severely injured, in the vehicle. Plff contended that the collision was due to police negligence; that the accident would not have occurred had the police not pursued the vehicle; and that the chase was in violation of department policies that banned high-speed pursuits unless officers believed a serious crime had been committed. Def. City of Seattle denied that its officers engaged in a vehicle pursuit, and claimed Def. Tammam was the sole cause of the collision. Pre-trial, Plff was found to be fault free.

Injuries: Neck injury; C4 fracture resulting in quadriplegia.

Specials: Med. \$575,000; Lost Wages \$552,000 to \$660,000; Days in Hosp. - 90 days.

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CONT'D

Settlement: Demand: \$30,000,000. Plff asked the jury for \$140,000,000. Offer: none. The Defs. asked the jury for \$7,000,000 to \$11,000,000.

Result: PLAINTIFF VERDICT for \$17,400,000 against Def. Tammam only. (The jury found that the officers were not negligent, resulting in a defense verdict as to the City of Seattle. Def. Tammam later pleaded guilty to felony hit-and-run.)